B. MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC SESSION

The Academic Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission was held on Saturday, the 13th January, 1979, at the Divisional Commissioner's Office, Aurangabad, with Dr. Raghubir Sinh in the Chair. Of the three papers circulated in advance "Tribal unrest in Chota-Nagpur in the late 18th century" by Dr. J. C. Jha was taken as read as the author could not attend the session. Thereafter Prof. G. H. Khare presented his paper, "Some Records from a Deshpande Family of Wai". Initiating discussion Dr. Mohammad Yasin, sought clarification of the term *Watan* used in the paper and asked how far was it different from *jagir*. Prof. Khare explained that *watan* denoted the land granted to an individual in lieu of his services to the Government, and though initially this grant was meant solely for the benefit of the grantee during his life-time, eventually it was made hereditary. He pointed out that *watan* grant travelled down from generation to generation but in no case could it be transferred. However, there were no such restrictions in the case of a *jagir*. On another point of information, Dr. Yasin wanted to know the exact points of differences between the functions of *Pande* and *Despande*. Prof. Khare explained that while *Pande's* jurisdiction was limited to serve just as the accountant of one single village, *Despande* was given the charge of a *pargana,* or even more.

Alluding to the phrase 'Perso-Marathi' in the papers, Shri S. A. I. Tirmizi asked whether the author by implication meant that there was Sanskrito-Marathi language. Prof. Khare replied that while Perso-Marathi records were those which contained matter partly in Marathi and partly in Persian, these Marathi records were invariably written in Modi script. Dr. Raghubir Sinh, however, added that though there were some records written in Modi, but certainly it was not a language but merely a script.

Thereafter Dr. D. P. Bhattacharya, presented his paper entitled "A document on Agrarian Structure in a village in Rohtak District". Besides making a few general comments, Dr. Dwijendra Tripathi pointed out that every old paper did not necessarily become a historical paper, for a paper to be labelled as 'historical' the author should indicate its historical significance, as also state in what way it would add to the knowledge of facts already known. Taking these considerations, Dr. Tripathi wondered if the paper spoke of any 'new discovery' on the subject, and as such did not require to be discussed in this meeting. Shri Trimizi pointed out that the paper was scrutinised by the members of the Editorial Committee and he wondered how far it could be said to have been based on original sources though the constitution of the Commission, had specifically laid down that criterion. Dr. P. Basu, Member of the Editorial Committee, stated that a 'new discovery' did not necessarily always mean an altogether new paper, but it could embody some fresh additional information. Moreover the Committee took into consideration the topicality of the subject.

The Session ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

IV. SYMPOSIUM ON PRIVATE ARCHIVES AND THEIR PROBLEMS

A. Papers presented

B. Minutes